

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: B.E. Gregory
TAKAYUKI NAGASHIMA ET AL.)
: Group Art Unit: 3662
Application No.: NYA)
Division of S.N. 08/672,023 :
filed June 26, 1996)
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Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
:
For: IMAGE TRANSMISSION)
APPARATUS, IMAGE :
TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, AND)
COMMUNICATION APPARATUS : June 5, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend
the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, immediately after the title, insert the
following:

--This application is a division of Application No.
08/672,023, filed on June 26, 1996.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-79, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please add Claims 80-104 as follows:

80. (New) An image transmission apparatus in an image transmission system, said apparatus comprising:

a reception unit, adapted to receive an image transmission request and an image quality request;

a memory, adapted to store a charge table of fees corresponding to image qualities;

a processing unit, adapted to process an image designated by the image transmission request in accordance with the image quality request; and

a charging unit, adapted to determine a charge based on the image quality request and the charge table.

81. (New) An apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the charge table provides a rate per unit time for each image quality.

82. (New) An apparatus according to claim 81, wherein said charging unit comprises a processor adapted to calculate a charge by processing a predetermined calculation

based on a rate per unit time.

83. (New) An apparatus according to claim 80,
further comprising:

a measurement unit, adapted to measure a transmission
time of a requested image.

84. (New) An apparatus according to claim 80,
further comprising:

a storage unit, adapted to store an amount of charge
for each user who transmits an image transmission request.

85. (New) An apparatus according to claim 84,
wherein said charging unit adjusts the amount of charge stored in
said storage unit at each predetermined time period.

86. (New) An apparatus according to claim 81,
wherein each image quality is a resolution of an image.

87. (New) An apparatus according to claim 80,
wherein the image quality request designates a quality of the
image to be transmitted.

88. (New) An image transmission method in an image

transmission system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an image transmission request and an image quality request;

processing an image designated by the image transmission request in accordance with the image quality request; and

determining a charge based on the image quality request and a predetermined charge table.

89. (New) A method according to claim 88, wherein said processing step includes performing digital processing on the image based on the image quality request.

90. (New) A method according to claim 88, wherein said determining step includes calculating a rate per unit time and an image transmission time.

91. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing an image transmission method in an image transmission system, the program comprising:

code for a reception step of receiving an image transmission request and an image quality request;

code for a processing step of processing an image designated by the image transmission request in accordance with

95. (New) A program according to claim 94, wherein the processing step includes performing digital processing on the image based on the image quality request.

96. (New) A program according to claim 94, wherein the determination step includes calculating a rate per unit time and an image transmission time.

97. (New) An image transmission unit comprising:
a communication interface adapted to communicate with a user terminal via a transmission path and to receive an image transmission request and an image quality request from a user;

an image quality control unit adapted to process image data of an image in accordance with the image quality request to generate processed image data with the requested image quality;

a charge database adapted to store a charge table of charges for corresponding image qualities; and

a charge unit adapted to calculate a charge based on the image quality request and a charge from the charge table corresponding to the image quality request.

98. (New) A unit according to claim 97, wherein the image quality is a resolution of the image.

99. (New) A unit according to claim 97, wherein the image quality is a hue of the image.

100. (New) A unit according to claim 97, wherein the image quality is a saturation of the image.

101. (New) A unit according to claim 97, wherein said charge unit calculates a charge based on a transmission time of the image.

102. (New) A unit according to claim 97, wherein said charge unit calculates a charge based on an amount of image data.

103. (New) A unit according to claim 97, wherein said image transmission unit is provided at a location on a network.

104. (New) A unit according to claim 103, wherein the location transmits television signals corresponding to the image.

REMARKS

The present application is a division of copending

parent Application No. 08/672,023, filed on June 26, 1996.

Original Claims 1-79 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. New Claims 80-104 have been added. Claims 80, 88, 91, 94, and 97 are in independent form.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present divisional application is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

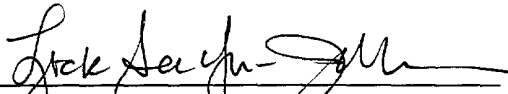
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

The information listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 is of record in the parent of the present divisional application, and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there. Also enclosed are copies of three communications from foreign patent offices, citing some of the listed information. The Examiner is requested to indicate that the listed information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portions of the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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